

James Connelly House
Minersville Neighborhood
159 Iron Street
Johnstown
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5775

HABS
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11-0070,
63-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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Location: 159 Iron Street, Minersville, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: Free-standing single-family house. Two-and-a-half stories, stone basement, asbestos over wood frame. Fine mansard roof with windows that have attractive decorative wood cornices. The house is 20' x 30'. Shed-roofed front porch.

History: In November 1882 James Connelly bought this property from Patrick Minahan for \$515. In 1884 Susan, who was James's widow, gave the property to her children, John, Ellen and Catherine. The house is noted on the tax assessment card as dating from 1884. It is shown in the 1895 Sanborn as a two-story structure; the third story was added between 1895 and 1911. In the city directory for 1895 John Connelly, who was a laborer, is listed as living in and owning the house. By 1900 the Connelys were renting out the house. In the census for that year D. Dynon, of Irish descent, a watchman with the railroad, his wife and daughter were tenants. In 1910 James Harron from Pennsylvania, his wife and two children were tenants.

The house passed to various members of the Connelly family until it was sold in 1936 to Catherine Sandak Marchok. In 1986 the property, then including 161 Iron St. and 158 Connelly Ave., as well as this house, was sold to Daniel and Mary Zahurak by Edward C. Marchok for \$13,000.

Sources:

Deed Records (48:287, 57:544, 469:368, 524:214, 1169:642), Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Johnstown City Directories, 1889, 1893, 1895.

Tax assessment card, assessment no.04-002-40.000, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

United States Census, Cambria County, Pa., City of Johnstown, 14th Ward, 1900 and 1910.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhoods of Cambria City and Minersville (HABS No. PA-5672) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Bernadette Goslin in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Goslin's and other project historians' work was published as The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.